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(54) **DEPROTECTION METHOD**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To carry out the deprotection of a protected functional group by the catalytic hydrogenation with H₂ released from a hydrogen-occluding alloy composed mainly of a compound having a CaCu₅-type hexagonal crystal structure and containing Ni and a rare-earth element or Ca element as essential elements.

CONSTITUTION: A protected functional group is deprotected by the catalytic hydrogenation at 0-80°C with H₂ released from a hydrogen-occluding alloy composed mainly of a compound having a CaCu₅-type hexagonal crystalline structure and containing R (rare-earth

element or Ca element) and Ni as essential elements. Preferably, the decomposition temperature of the alloy corresponding to the decomposition equilibrium pressure of 1 atm is ≤200°C and the average particle diameter of the alloy is 0.5-100μm. Since the alloy has high catalytic activity in itself, the deprotection can be carried out in high efficiency under a high-safety condition (i.e., an H₂ gas pressure of <10kg/cm²) without using a catalyst. A large amount of H₂ gas can be occluded in the alloy and the alloy is available at a low cost compared with conventional Pd or Pt catalyst and is durable to repeated use.

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